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First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1940

Famous Minister Of Texas Arrives To Begin Services



TRUETT OPENS SERMON SERIES BEFORE 3,000

Crowd Hears Noted Dallas
Pastor at Armory.

CONTINUES FOR 10 DAYS

Cleric Stresses Necessity Of
Prayer; Preaches to School
Pupils Today.

About 3,000 persons gathered last night at the Armory-Auditorium to hear the opening sermon of Dr. G. W. Truett of Dallas, Tex., as he began a 10-day meeting under the auspices of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Ministerial association and the Y. M. C. A. The meeting will close October 2.

Dr. Truett preached last night on "Prayer." He said prayer was profitable for several reasons, because it is reasonable, necessary, noble, obligatory and because it is answered.

"Many people ask, 'Why should we pray?' They say God's laws are never revoked and prayer asks that they be overturned. But we must remember that law is not inexorable. God has a reserve in store, and above all is His love, guiding human affairs. God directs law and commands prayer.

PRAYER NECESSARY.

"Prayer is necessary. It is instinctive to pray, and imperious in our nature. Only God can satisfy our spirits, and in time of need

CITY-WIDE REVIVAL.—Dr. George W. Truett (left), of Dallas, Texas, and Horace Easom of Shelby arrived here yesterday to begin a city-wide revival at the Armory-Auditorium. Dr. Truett, one of the country's great preachers, will do the preaching and Mr. Easom will direct the music. (Observer staff photo.)

Dr. Truett Speaks To Two Men's Clubs

Noted Clergyman Addresses Combined Meeting Of Good Fellows and Rotary Before Opening 10-Day Bible Mission Here—Talks On 'What Makes City Great.'

Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of the First Baptist church of Dallas, Tex., addressed about 400 men yesterday at the combined meeting of the Good Fellows club and the Rotary club at the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Truett is here holding a 10-day Bible mission at the Armory-Auditorium, under the joint auspices of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Ministerial association and the Young Men's Christian association. The meeting began last night.

Dr. Truett met with a cordial welcome from the men attending. They arose in a body as a recognition of the minister, who was introduced by Dr. R. L. Ownbey, as the "best beloved Christian leader of our time." Dr. Ownbey said Dr. Truett had hastened his arrival in Charlotte to be present at the luncheon.

Dr. Truett expressed his delight at being back in North Carolina, where he was born, and particularly in Charlotte for the second time. He held a 10-day series in 1931 in the Armory. He felicitated the Good Fellows club on its philanthropic program, to which he had just listened when J. R. Bryant, H. J. Spencer, and E. McCa. Currie presented three cases of extreme need for which the men had made ample provision. He said he felt that the persons gathered were citizens of no mean city, to quote Paul the Apostle, who was referring to his own city of Tarsus.

CITY STORM CENTER.

"The city is the storm center of civilization," said Dr. Truett, who had chosen for his subject, "What Makes a City Great." "But to make a city great requires teamwork and community spirit in the public mind. The citizens must realize that the interests of one are the interests of all, and that means the interests of each.

"Such co-operation and united concern will rebuke the selfishness of those who seek their own welfare at the expense of the many. Such a spirit of selfishness is the very negation of God. Our effort is to uplift humanity, and we are to remember that human life is the chief concern of the city. It is not skyscrapers, or outward appearances. We must not lose sight of life in its intrinsic value.

"We are living in times when the barbarous idea is promoted that man is a mere cog in a wheel and that the state is all. But material things are of no worth if life is undervalued. Our city is like a ship on the rocks if we lose sight of man. It is suicide. It is the spirit of humanity which is regnant and important. This is what oxygenizes the blood of community life.

LOOK BOTH WAYS.

"In planning for our city, we must ever take a look backward. Just as the Hebrews of old looked at their forebears, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to gain inspiration, this city may glance at the heritage of North Carolina, with her sturdy

race of Scotch-Irish parents. Their children must carry on. You reap what they sowed.

"But we should also take a forward look. We are living in serious times, with nations shaking at their foundations. Look backward again. The French revolution was a political revolution, the renaissance a literary revolution; the American revolution was a spiritual change. We are before these ocean currents that drive us onward. These times are testing our souls.

"Three things are at the basis of our government, the home, the church, and the state. They must not fall. The home must be strong and pious; the state must have good citizens to support it, who pay their taxes, vote for good men, and rebuke crime. But the church is our chief institution. Has Christianity failed us in the crisis of the hour? Big business failed; so did diplomacy, and education. But Christ has not failed, but holds His hands out to bid a weary world, Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!

"Lloyd George said in the World war, 'It is Christ or chaos.' Old Glasgow had on its city gates, 'Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the word.' The greatest tragedy is for a city not to discover what life is for."

The Good Fellows club's double quartet sang Sullivan's "Lost Chord," accompanied by Eugene Craft. E. E. Rutledge led in the singing of "America."

our nature. Only in the time of need our spirits, and in time of need our first impulse is to pray. I found that true with the soldiers in France in the World war. They all called on God.

"Prayer is noble, and it is ignoble to refuse to pray. How foul is ingratitude. Sharper than a serpent's tooth is a thankless child, said Shakespeare, and he was right.

"God commands us to pray. It is obligatory to pray. It is our duty. Our Master said men ought to pray and not to faint. If any lack wisdom he may ask of God, and it will be given him. To neglect prayer is a sin.

LOSE TOO MUCH.

"Prayer is profitable because God answers prayer. He answered Abraham's prayer for Lot. He answered Jacob's prayer. He answered Paul's prayer. He will answer yours.

"We should pray more. We lose too much by forgetting to pray. We should pray with the right motive. First we must be right with man, and next we must be right with God before we pray effectively. We must pray with faith. Suppose no one prayed for us, Where would we be?"

Dr. Truett gave two illustrations of answered prayer. One was from his meeting with the cowboys of Texas, which is an annual affair. This year he saw an old woman 88 years old saved by prayer. Another case was that of a Yale man saved by his mother's prayers.

WILLIAMS PRESIDES.

Dr. W. H. Williams, chairman of the Truett meeting, presided last night. Rev. H. P. Powell, pastor of Dilworth Methodist church, led in prayer. The song service was led by Horace Easom of Shelby, who was once a member of Dr. Truett's staff in his Dallas Baptist church. There was a choir of about 100 there. Mr. Easom sang a solo.

Today at 10:30 a. m. Dr. Truett will preach to the high school pupils of the city who will gather at the auditorium.

The service begins tonight at 7:45 o'clock at the auditorium. Tomorrow at noon the day services at the Second Presbyterian church will begin and continue through the series. They will last 45 minutes.

On Thursday at 1:30 p. m. there will be a luncheon for ministers and their wives at Efird's, and Dr. Truett will speak to them after the meal. The plates are 50 cents each, and all wishing to be present are asked to notify the Y. M. C. A. today or tomorrow.